during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The number of Government and private owned flying clubs in the country is 39.

(b) A person can join any of flying clubs, subject to complying with the conditions laid down by these clubs.

(c)Yes, Sir. The antecedents of a foreign national are got verified from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance (Directorate General Narcotics Control Bureau and Director, Revenue Intelligence) before approval is granted for flying training in India. So far as an Indian citizen is concerned,all flying clubs obtain police verification certificate from the local police station before permission is granted to join the concerned flying club.

(d) The record of students leaving flying clubs without completing their flying courses is not maintained by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

New Operations by Pawan Hans

4247. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 481 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government are planning Pawan Hans operation abroad, if so, the details of the contract bagged by the company; and

(b) whether Pawan Hans has started new operation since 1998, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) plans to deploy helicopters for operations abroad as part of its long-term business strategy, but has not yet reached the stage of bagging a contract.

(b) PHHL does not operate any scheduled passenger services. It provides helicopters on charter basis to various Public Sector Undertakings like ONGC, NHPC, GAIL, etc. and State Governments. PHHL provided helicopter services for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine from April, 2000 to October,2001. Helicopters were also provided by the Company for XVIII and XIX Indian Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica.